1999 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 60

June 15, 1999 – Introduced by Representatives Waukau, Meyerhofer, Huber, Balow, Young, Pocan, Kreuser, Bock, Schooff, Sinicki, Staskunas, Ryba, Sherman, Lassa, Plouff, Gronemus, Hasenohrl, Wasserman, J. Lehman, Turner and Boyle, cosponsored by Senators Breske, Clausing and Darling. Referred to Joint survey committee on Retirement Systems.

Relating to: memorializing Congress to use a majority of the budget surplus to strengthen social security.

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Whereas, social security provides American workers with universal, contributory, wage-related, inflation-proof benefits in the event of the retirement, disability or death of a primary wage earner; and

Whereas, social security is more than a retirement program — it is a family program. Without social security, about 54% of America's seniors and more than 15,000,000 beneficiaries overall would be living in poverty. About 98% of children under age 18 can count on monthly cash benefits if a working parent dies; and

Whereas, over the course of its existence as a federal program, social security's trustees and administrators have carefully modified the benefit and financing structure, thereby ensuring the program's viability in light of major demographic trends and economic developments; and

Whereas, in his State of the Union address the President urged Congress to save social security first and dedicate the majority of the projected surplus to shoring up the solvency of social security; and

Whereas, the long-term solvency of social security can be ensured for future generations with reasonable and timely adjustments to the program made by Congress; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the legislature of the state of Wisconsin memorializes the federal government to use the budget surplus to strengthen social security and Medicare to ensure the continued financial viability of these essential programs; and, be it further

Resolved, That the legislature further memorializes the federal government to take immediate steps to ensure that social security remains a universal, mandatory, contributory social insurance system where risk is pooled among all workers, rather than transferred to each individual worker; and, be it further

Resolved, That the assembly clerk shall transmit copies of this joint resolution to the President of the United States, to the president and secretary of the U.S. senate, to the speaker and clerk of the U.S. house of representatives and to each member of the congressional delegation from this state.

19 (END)